



LOUISIANA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Overview

The Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS) was created on **July 31, 1946** and became fully operational as of July 1, 1947, as established by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1001. LSERS is a 401(a) defined benefit plan under the Internal Revenue Code.

LSERS has approximately 26,000 active and retired members¹. Our members are comprised of non-instructional personnel of the Louisiana public school system. This includes school bus operators, janitors, custodians, maintenance employees, school bus aides, monitors, and attendants, and other regular school employees who actually work on school buses helping with the transportation of school children. Employees must work more than 20 hours per week to be enrolled as a member of this system.

LSERS is one of four state government retirement systems and is administered by a professional staff of state employees. LSERS' operations are financed through member and employer contributions and investment earnings on the contributions. Retirement disbursements are made with those funds and the interest generated on those funds.

LSERS is the third largest state retirement system in Louisiana and is placed, organizationally within state government, under the Department of the Treasury. It is governed by a 12-member Board of Trustees made up of 6 elected representatives (4 active employees by district and 2 retirees), and 6 appointed (ex-officio) members.

Many of LSERS members belong to the Louisiana School Bus Operators Association (LSBOA), a statewide professional association that is an effective forum where current issues are defined and means of resolution are effectively sought. Each of the parishes also has independent bus operator associations that work actively in defining and resolving local issues.

Contact Information

Board of Trustees - Elected Members

Philip B. Walther, Chairman, 1st Retirement District 504.443.4005
Eugene Rester, Jr., Vice Chair, Retiree Representative 985.516.0369
Colleen C. Barber, Vice Chair Pro Tem, 2nd Retirement District 985.630.0164
Penny Brown, 3rd Retirement District 318.649.7696
Andrea Matte, 4th Retirement District 337.302.2883
Vacant, Retiree Representative

Board of Trustees - Ex Officio Members

Henry J. Yearby, President of Louisiana School Bus Operators Association 337.649.6521
Kyle Ardoin, Secretary of State 225.922.2880
John Schroder, State Treasurer 225.342.0010
Senator Beth Mizell, Senate Committee on Retirement 985.839.3936
Representative Tony Bacala, House Committee on Retirement 225.677.8020
Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration 225.342.7000

LSERS' Executive Team

Main number: 225.925.6484 or 1.800.256.3718
Charles P. Bujol, Executive Director, cbujol@lsers.net
Chenfei Zhou, Assistant Director, czhou@lsers.net
John W. Strange, Executive Counsel, jstrange@lsers.net
Matthew J. Freedman, Chief Investment Officer, mfreedman@lsers.net
Ashley D. Simmons, Executive Staff Officer, asimmons@lsers.net

¹Information on membership, along with assets, liabilities, and funding requirements for LSERS, is provided in the Actuarial Valuation and Auditors' reports located on the Resources>Publications>Annual Reports page on LSERS website.